

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (New) A self-propelled lawn mower comprising:

an engine deck having a rear end;

first and second drive wheels mounted proximate to the rear end of the engine deck;

wherein at least one of said drive wheels rotates about a rotational axis, and wherein said rotational axis defines a vertical plane;

a foot platform provided at least partially between said drive wheels proximate said vertical plane, said platform capable of supporting a standing mower operator during mower use; and

wherein a plane defined by a top surface of said engine deck is at a higher elevation than a plane defined by said platform in an area proximate said rear end of said engine deck.